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SUBJECT Predictability of the Soviet Purges

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How the Predictability is Established

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Deductively, the pattern seems to appear when (a) the framework of dialectical materialism is adopted; (b) the assumption is made that, with all their differences, the Soviet groups are simply merely "other human groups" so that findings of modern sociology, social psychology, and cultural anthropology become applicable. This deductive approach is new only in one sense that it results from a conscious discarding of all preceeding theories, ie, (a) the Bolsheviks are but another militant powergroup seeking world domination; (b) the Bolsheviks themselves do not accept dialectical materialism but merely use it for propaganda purposes; (c) the leaders act for personal rather than social motives, ambitions, and desires; (d) there exists a personalized power struggle.

Inductively, this analyst accumulated information on all available purges in the USSR and the Satellites in 1950, 1951, 1952 and 1953 through June. This information was rationally and not statistically analyzed in search of a pattern or in search of preliminary confirmation of the theory.

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What Predictability is About

2. It is a rational model. In this model the members of the Presidium are treated not as personalities but simply as individual X, Y, Z, etc. This model then is to serve two purposes: (a) From it, an empirical model can be constructed when further research is conducted which might, or might not, prove the theory useful.
- (b) The rational model can be fitted with observed data provided that such data are available now so as to fill in the X, Y, Z empty patterns with names of corresponding individuals.

The Specific Predictions Claimed

3. Considerable purges within the Presidium shall be forthcoming due to the peculiar relational stresses created by the death of Stalin. Who is likely to be purged from the Presidium? Only an analysis of the preceding relations of each individual member with and to each other member could reveal this story. Especially the relations of the members to Malenkov. Individuals whom such research or knowledge would reveal to have belonged to the same relational clique or social type as Mr Malenkov may survive longer and even indefinitely. Again the pattern is clear but in the absence of the specific types of data, the X, Y, Z cells could not presently be filled by names of individuals.
4. Individuals in administrative positions are more vulnerable as they are in such fields of activities which under produce, or are ineffective or unsuccessful in Soviet domestic or international affairs. Thus, considerable shortages in agricultural products in one state of the USSR will yield a purge of the responsible cabinet member in that state. If they occur in many states simultaneously, the responsible Soviet official is bound to be purged, ie, removed from position to say the least. If we possessed the knowledge of areas of shortages, inadequacies and weaknesses we would also possess the knowledge of a predictable pattern of coming purges on local, regional, state and union levels.

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6. If the data are available, it would be possible to predict purges, but if purges can be predicted it means something else which is extremely important - that we have analyzed them into their constituent factors correctly. If we have a sound theory and necessary data, it is only a matter of further consideration to show that some of these factors are entirely beyond our control such as the fact that a certain individual does or does not antagonize his comrades by his manner of speech, etc. It is clear, however, that some of the factors must not be completely beyond our control inasmuch as we live in the same world and are influenced by the same conditions which determine the behavior of the Soviets.

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7. These factors then are the ones which we can manipulate to the extent to which we introduce them into the Soviet web of life. By this we can modify our behavior or our activities in such a manner as to

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produce desired results and planned results. It will not do to discard this theory because it is based on rational considerations only. Unless a better theory is available, it would be profitable to carry through this analysis and actually fit the rational model. What techniques then can and cannot, must and must not be used in actual manipulation is a matter of political decisions of a high level.

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